

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KASEEM WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT  
SYSTEM, *et al.*,

Defendants.

20-CV-331 (CM)

ORDER DIRECTING PAYMENT OF FEE  
OR IFP APPLICATION AND PRISONER  
AUTHORIZATION AND ORIGINAL  
SIGNATURE

COLLEEN McMAHON, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, currently incarcerated at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a prisoner must either pay \$400.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$50.00 administrative fee – or, to request authorization to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application and a prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915. If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s account. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed in this Court without prepayment of fees must therefore authorize the Court to withdraw these payments from his account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is incarcerated to deduct the \$350.00 filing fee<sup>1</sup> from the prisoner’s account in installments and to send to the Court certified copies of the prisoner’s account statements for the past six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b).

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<sup>1</sup> The \$50.00 administrative fee for filing a civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

Also, Rule 11(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[e]very pleading, written motion, and other paper must be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney’s name – or by a party personally if the party is unrepresented.” *See also* Local Civil Rule 11.1(a). The Supreme Court has interpreted Rule 11(a) to require “as it did in John Hancock’s day, a name handwritten (or a mark handplaced).” *Becker v. Montgomery*, 532 U.S. 757, 764 (2001).

Plaintiff submitted an unsigned complaint without the filing fees, and with an outdated IFP application and prisoner authorization. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$400.00 in fees or submit the attached signature page, IFP application, and prisoner authorization forms. If Plaintiff submits the IFP application and prisoner authorization, they should be labeled with docket number 20-CV-331 (CM).<sup>2</sup>

The Clerk of Court is directed to assign this matter to my docket, mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff, and note service on the docket. No summons shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk’s Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed.

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<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff is cautioned that if a prisoner files an action that is dismissed as frivolous or for failing to state a claim, the dismissal is a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). A prisoner who receives three “strikes” cannot file actions *in forma pauperis* as a prisoner, unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury, and must pay the filing fee at the time of filing any new action.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore *in forma pauperis* status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 16, 2020  
New York, New York

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen McMahon", written over a horizontal line.

COLLEEN McMAHON  
Chief United States District Judge